



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 2, 2002

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers linger from the ***Great Basin to the central Rockies***. Elsewhere, cool, dry weather is promoting autumn fieldwork.
- ***On the Plains***, very cool weather is slowing winter wheat development across the ***northern half of the region***. This morning's low temperatures in ***Montana*** were as low as 20 degrees F, and today's highs are forecast to remain below 50 degrees F as far south as ***Nebraska***. Meanwhile on the ***central and southern Plains***, showers are slowing fieldwork but providing much-needed moisture for winter wheat establishment.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, rainy weather is overspreading ***northern and western portions of the region***, slowing corn and soybean harvesting. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather in the ***Ohio Valley*** favors fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather favors a return to fieldwork in the ***Delta and central Gulf Coast region***, soaked last week by Tropical Storm Isidore. Assessment continues with respect to Isidore's effects on open-boll cotton and lodging of sugarcane and unharvested summer crops, including rice. Meanwhile, Hurricane Lili is bearing down on the ***Gulf Coast*** with maximum sustained winds near 110 m.p.h. At 8 a.m. EDT, Lili was centered 405 miles south-southeast of ***New Orleans***, moving west-northwestward at 16 m.p.h.

Outlook: The National Hurricane Center forecasts that Hurricane Lili will make landfall on Thursday, most likely across the ***western half of Louisiana***. Significant damage is likely near the coast along the storm's immediate path. Elsewhere, showers will persist along a cold front stretching from the ***central and southern Plains*** into the ***Corn Belt and Northeast***, while unsettled weather will linger in the ***Great Basin and central Rockies***. By week's end, heavy rain is expected in portions of the ***Plains*** and ***Mississippi Valley***, as a developing storm system interacts with Lili, while a cold front will provide rain and snow showers to the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and northern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 7-11 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions across the ***southern Plains and Mississippi Valley***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected along the ***West Coast***. Below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***Rockies and northern Plains***, but warmer-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***South and East***.

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